



Savonoski Loop

The Savonoski Loop is an 86 mile canoe/kayak trip through the scenic Katmai National Park back-country. This trip should be attempted by persons with intermediate canoeing or kayaking skills who are experienced wilderness travelers, and know how to travel in bear country. Paddlers should allow 5-10 days (or longer) for the trip, depending on route, experience and weather.

The loop starts at Brooks Camp and heads west along the North Arm of Naknek Lake through the Bay of Islands. Boaters should allow 2-3 days to travel the 32 miles from Brooks Camp to Fure's Cabin in the Bay of Islands. Allow at least 3-4 days to travel from the portage trail between Naknek Lake and Grosvenor Lake to the delta of the Savonoski River. Crossing the Iliuk Arm of Naknek Lake completes the loop, ending at Brooks Camp.

The one mile portage trail connects Naknek Lake and Grosvenor Lake. The trail begins at Fure's Cabin, near the east end of the Bay of Islands. Reservations to stay at Fure's Cabin can be made at Katmai National Park headquarters in King Salmon. On the portage trail, be prepared to encounter mud and numerous insects. The mostly level, unmarked trail begins behind the outhouse at the top of the hill at Fure's Cabin.

From the portage trail, boaters will travel east approximately 14 miles to the outlet of Grosvenor Lake. It is highly recommended that boaters travel along the south shore. Willawaws, strong south and southeast winds, are frequent on the north shore of Grosvenor Lake and create an added element of danger. There is little shelter from the wind and travelers frequently have to pull to shore to wait out high winds on Grosvenor Lake. Grosvenor River is a Class I or slow moving, clear water stream about 3 miles long. The trip along the Savonoski River can be run easily in one day. You are advised to travel the 12 miles between the confluence of the Grosvenor and Savonoski Rivers, and the delta of the Savonoski without stopping. Camping is **NOT** recommended along the Savonoski River since bears frequent the area. Whitewater does not usually occur along the Savonoski River, but there are numerous obstacles to avoid (sandbars and fallen trees). It is sometimes difficult to estimate the depth of the water due to heavy sediments. Follow the main channel to avoid running aground. Waders are advised if grounding occurs. The Savonoski River is a braided Class I-II (waves up to three feet) river with a current of 3-5 miles per hour. It is approximately twenty miles from the mouth of the Savonoski River (at Iliuk Arm on Naknek Lake) to Brooks Camp.

Utilize the south shore on the Iliuk Arm of Naknek Lake. It offers shelter from severe winds when returning to Brooks Camp. The north shore has steep cliffs along the base of Mt. LaGorce. It is strongly recommended that you camp away from the mouth of Margot Creek as it is frequented by bears.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Katmai National Park & Preserve's field headquarters in King Salmon at 907-246-3305.